



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,347	12/02/2003	Kazunori Ochiai	Q78774	1327

23373 7590 05/17/2005
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

CHUNG, DANIEL J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2672

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/725,347

Applicant(s)

OCHIAI ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel J Chung

Art Unit

2672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

The drawings are approved by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3,5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hasegawa et al. (6,333,752)

Regarding claim 1, Hasegawa et al discloses that the claimed feature of an image signal processing apparatus comprising: an operation device [i.e. "operation instructing section"; 301] which accepts operational instructions for changing [304] .an

image quality parameter of an inputted image signal [i.e. "input section"; 101]; an image signal generation circuit [i.e. "image registering section"; 302] which generates an image signal for displaying [308] at least two identical images based on the inputted image signal [101] on one image plane; an image quality adjusting circuit [i.e. "image changing section"; 304, "display controller"; 307] which performs an image quality adjusting processing based on an image quality parameter [i.e. "brightness", "contrast"...; 604-607] before adjusting image quality with respect to a part of the generated image signal for displaying one ["reference image"; 901] of the identical images [901-909], and performs an image quality adjusting processing based on an image quality parameter after adjusting image quality with respect to another part of the generated image signal for displaying another one ["peripheral image"; 902-909] of the identical images [901-909], in response to the operational instructions ["instruction"] for changing the image quality parameter [604-607] accepted by the operation device [301]. (See Fig 3-4, Fig 7-12, Abstract, col 2 line 45-col 9 line 60)

Regarding claim 2, Hasegawa et al discloses that the image signal generation circuit [302] generates an image signal for displaying at least two identical images [901-909] based on the inputted image signal [101] on one image plane in response to the operational instructions ["instruction"] for changing [304] the image quality parameter accepted by the operation device [301]. (See Fig 3, Fig 9)

Regarding claim 3, Hasegawa et al discloses that an image quality parameter displaying signal generation circuit which generates an image quality parameter [604-607] displaying signal for displaying adjusted values of the image quality parameters before and after adjusting image quality [901-909]; and a superimposing circuit [307] which superimposes the image quality parameter displaying signal on the generated image signal for displaying at least two identical images. (See Fig 9, Fig 12)

Regarding claims 5-7, claims 5-7 are similar in scope to the claims 1-3, and thus the rejections to claims 1-3 hereinabove are also applicable to claims 5-7.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowable subject matter: The present invention is directed to an image signal processing performing an image quality processing in accordance with image quality parameters. The above identified claims include the uniquely distinct features "a first line memory which stores a half horizontal scanning period of image data with respect to one horizontal scanning period of the inputted image data; a second line memory which stores the same image data as that the first line memory stores, the same image data being a half horizontal scanning

Art Unit: 2672

period of image data; and a reading out device which reads out the half horizontal scanning period of image data stored in the first line memory at one half period in one horizontal scanning period, and reads out the half horizontal scanning period of image data stored in the second line memory at the other half period in one horizontal scanning period, and the image quality adjusting circuit adjusts the half horizontal scanning period of image data read out from the first line memory in accordance with the image quality parameter before adjusting image quality, and adjusts the half horizontal scanning period of image data read out from the second line memory in accordance with the image quality parameter after adjusting image quality". The closest prior art, Hasegawa et al (US 6,333,752) discloses a similar system, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Chung whose telephone number is (571) 272-7657. He can normally be reached Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays from 7:30am- 5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by

telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael, Razavi, can be reached at (571) 272-7664.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:


(703) 872-9306 (Central fax)

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

djc
May 10, 2005


JEFFERY BRIER
PRIMARY EXAMINER